(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the proposed amendment, inter alia, include that the offence be made a cognizable one, penalties be made more stringent and deterrent and the onus of proof of age of a child be on the employer.

Protection for the Rights of Labour in SEZ

2989. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is no protection for the rights of labour in Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to create more such special economic zones under the new Export-Import Policy for 2000-2001; and

(c) whether Government will take necessary measures to see that the rights of the labour are protected in these zones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) In the Export and Import Policy (1997—2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31/3/2000, the Government has announced the Policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country with a view to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for exports with minimum procedural requirement. The units in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will have to be a net foreign exchange earner but they shall not be subject to any pre-determined value addition or minimum export performance.

As far as labour matter is concerned, Special Economic Zones will be governed by the laws and rules of the country.

Growing problem of unemployment

2990. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether with economy registering a regular growth of 5 to 6 per cent every year; joblessness has out-stepped all economic growth;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of economic growth and growth in employment and unemployment year after, over the last five years, indicating the number of unemployed and employment generation both in rural and urban sectors during these years; and

(c) the main reasons for the growing unemployment and the concrete steps proposed to be taken to deal with the menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) As per information furnished by Planning Commission, on the basis of latest comprehensive surveys available on Employment and Unemployment conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1987-88 (43rd round) and 1993-94 (50th round) the rate of unemployment in the country was as follows :

Unemployment rate* as per *Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS)*

1987-88	2.62
1993-94	1.90

*percentage to Labour Force.

Since, the unemployment rate has reduced during 1987—93, joblessness has not out stepped all economic growth.

Average annual growth rate (%) of employed persons as per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) during 1987-88 and 1993-94 is 2.43%. This implies a positive employment growth.

Identification of region with higher rates of unemployment

2991. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified the regions which have higher rates of unemployment and under employment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the prevailing scenario in these regions; and

(d) the remedial measures Government propose to take to improve the situation in these region ?